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Nabb Research Center
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Shoreline

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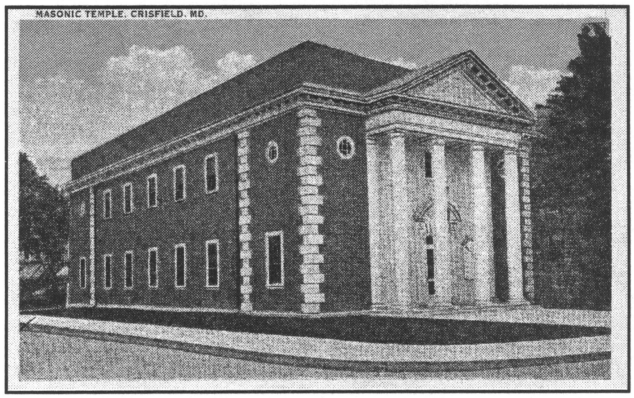
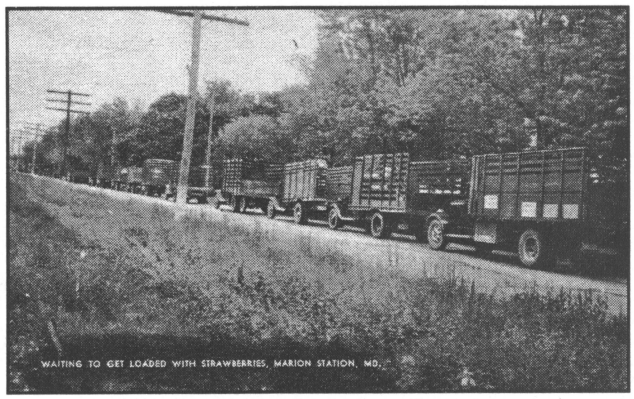
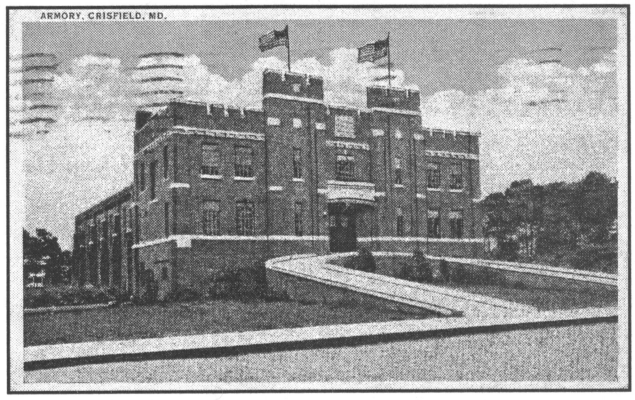
The John Jacob Postcard Collection: Intimate Pictures of the Past

By Jessica Howell







The John Jacob Postcard Collection, a recent addition to the Nabb Research Center, is a very unique collection of antique postcards that illustrate the picturesque charm of our most beloved Eastern Shore towns. The collection includes postcards from Crisfield, Princess Anne, Smith Island, Marion Station and Pocomoke City and other Eastern Shore locals. Pictures of crabbing boats and pots, historic churches, quaint cottages and quiet country roads are displayed on the hundreds of postcards that comprise the collection.

My personal favorite is a card portraying the strawberry harvest on Delmarva. Just looking at the endless line of trucks waiting to be loaded with strawberries at Marion Station, I can almost smell their intoxicating sweetness. The postcard reminded me of those long, hot days, when summer vacation seemed to last forever. Romping through fields of strawberries, anxious to get home and gobble up that big bowl of ruby red berries that mom cut up just for me.

While memories like these last forever, some of the postcards in the collection display churches and houses that have been lost through the decades. One of these lost treasures is pictured on the front of a postcard from Crisfield, MD. Inspired by Victorian-style architecture, this residence once located on Upper Main Street in Crisfield was elaborately painted, with turrets and a wrap-around porch. This beautiful residence was replaced by a church community hall in 1976. Unfortunately, one of the more unique and ornate houses of Crisfield, now exists only in photographs.

The John Jacob Postcard Collection is a cherished addition to the Nabb Research Center's extensive collection of Delmarva's rich history and heritage. Anyone wishing to view the collection can now access portions of it online in a new Web exhibit created by the Nabb Research Center. The panorama of pictures, handwritten messages and musty smell of old paper are the essence of the Jacob Collection. There is something poignant about holding a postcard sent with love years ago that provides an intimate connection that is absent from text books. The John Jacob Postcard Collection is one of the Nabb Center's more vibrant collections and is a delightful treat for anyone interested in studying the history and heritage of the Delmarva Region.

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"We're History...Without You"

Upcoming Events:

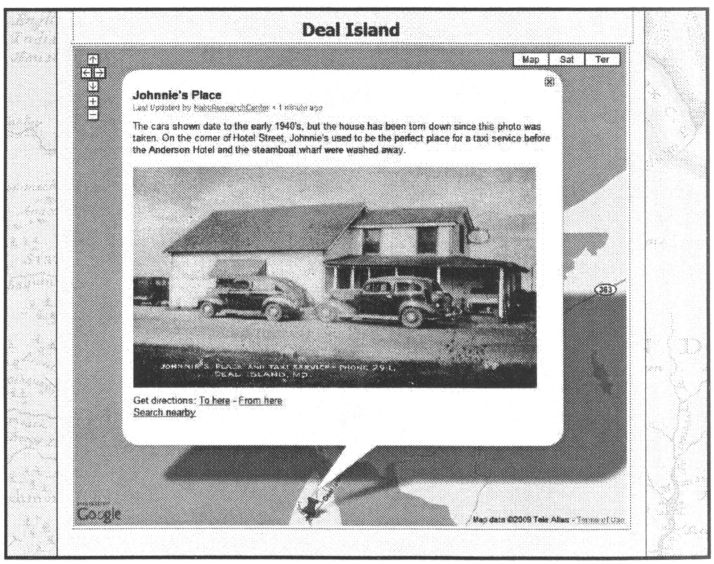
Family History Research Workshop
Saturday, January 24, 9 a.m.-Noon.
Nabb Research Center
SU East Campus Complex Room 190
Dr. Ray Thompson, director of the Nabb Research Center, presents how-to steps for gathering and researching family history. The cost of the workshop is $30. Call 410-543-6312 for registration.

Celebrating African-American History Month
Wednesday, February 18, 7 p.m.
Nabb Research Center
SU East Campus Complex Room 190
Linda Duyer talks about her book, *'Round the Pond: Georgetown of Salisbury, Maryland.* Although little remains of the oldest African-American neighborhood in Salisbury, *'Round the Pond* documents some of this community's rich history.

Celebrating Woman's History Month
Wednesday, March 25, 7:30 p.m.
SU Guerrieri University Center, Wicomico Room
Dr. Melanie Perreault, chair of the SU History Department, presents the 2009 Wilcomb Washburn Distinguished Lecture in American History titled *Servants, Slaves, and Unruly Mistresses: Interpersonal Violence in the Early Chesapeake.* Perreault examines how acts of violence both challenged and reinforced community standards in the 17th century Chesapeake.

John Jacob's Post Card Exhibit

The Nabb Center is pleased to announce the launch of our new online exhibit which features local postcards from the John Jacob Collection housed in the Nabb Center's archives. The new exhibit allows visitors to view historic postcards of Somerset County. The exhibit consists of a map of Delmarva where patrons can click on a particular town and view the postcards related to that area. A special thanks goes out to Archivist David Ranzan and Student Intern Matthew Griffin for their work on the exhibit. Be on the lookout for further online exhibits in the future from the Nabb Research Center.


Deal Island
Map
Sat
Ter
Johnnie's Place
The cars shown date to the early 1940's, but the house has been torn down since this photo was taken. On the corner of Hotel Street, Johnnie's used to be the perfect place for a taxi service before the Anderson Hotel and the steamboat wharf were washed away.
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